

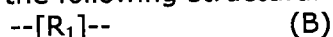
Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0027] of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

In certain embodiments, the coupling agent is a diacyl chloride derived from adipic acid, ~~suberoic~~suberic acid, sebacic acid, or ~~dodecanoic~~dodecanedioic acid.

Please replace paragraph [0060] of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0060] During the reaction with a lactone to produce MDs, the diol forms an initiating core B having the following structural formula:



~~Macromerdiols~~Macromerdiols (MDs)

Please replace paragraph [0061] of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~Macromerdiols~~Macromerdiols (MDs) are formed by the reaction of a lactone and a diol and have the following structural formula: $\text{HO--[--(R}_2\text{)--C(=O)--O--]}_m\text{--[R}_1\text{]--[--O--C(=O)--(R}_2\text{)--]}_m\text{--OH}$ wherein m is a number of repeats from about 4 to about 60; in certain embodiments m=10 to 40.
Coupling Agent

Please replace paragraph [0063] of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

Coupling agents have the following structural formula: $\text{X--C(=O)--(R}_3\text{)--C(=O)--X}$ where R_3 is a $\text{C}_4\text{--C}_{10}$ aliphatic or aromatic group, preferably R_3 is C_4 , C_6 , C_8 , or C_{10} , X is a halide, preferably Cl. In certain embodiments, diacyls are derived from adipic acid (C_6), ~~suberoic~~suberic acid (C_8), sebacic acid (C_{10}), and ~~dodecanoic~~dodecanedioic acid (C_{12}).

Please replace paragraph [0066] of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

Polyesters of the present invention have the following structural formula: $\text{--[A]}_m\text{--[B]}_n\text{--[A]}_m\text{--[D]}_x$ where m is a number of repeats from about 4 to about 60, and x is a number of macromeric units from about 1 to about 100. The term "~~macromeri~~macromeric unit" as used in this disclosure means a repeating unit formed from a combination of repeating lactone derived units (homo and hetero monomers), an initiating core, and a coupling unit.

Please replace paragraph [0087] of the published application with the following rewritten paragraph:

The MDs (synthesized as described in Example 21) were linked using hydrophobic diacid dichlorides of varying carbon length (C_6 , C_8 , C_{10} , and C_{12}) to form higher molecular weight (MW) polyesters. The synthesis of polyesters derived from MDs with adipoyl chloride is described below. 3 g of the MD was dissolved in 40 mL of MeCl in a 100-mL round-bottom flask. To this solution, 0.55 g of adipoyl chloride was added drop-wise at RT. After about 1 h, 0.61 g of triethylamine was added drop-wise to the flask, and the contents of the flask were stirred for an additional 4 h at RT. The reaction mixture was then washed with 100 mL of semi-saturated sodium bicarbonate and the organic MeCl phase was separated. The MeCl phase was dried with anhydrous sodium sulfate and filtered to yield a yellow colored solution. The polymer was obtained by precipitating in a large excess of hexanes and purified by re-precipitation from MeCl in hexanes. The fibrous solid so obtained was dried at 50° C. under vacuum for 3 days. A library of various polyesters (as shown in Tables 2-4) was similarly synthesized. The polymer yield was at least 90%.